

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 2-4, 6-7 and 16-18 have been canceled, without prejudice, and claims 1, 5, 8-15 and 19-29 have been amended to more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention in better U.S. form. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-10, 12-18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,570,614 ("Kubo et al"); claims 11 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Kubo et al; claims 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Kubo et al and USP 7,027,171 ("Watanabe"); and claims 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Kubo et al and USP 6,237,106 ("Koyama"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, an image-pickup apparatus is provided which comprises an input unit which inputs a condition-selecting instruction and a medium selecting instruction from a user, an image-pickup unit which takes a picture of a subject to obtain image data, and a condition-selecting unit which selects one of a plurality of conditions in accordance with the condition-selecting instruction. In addition, as recited in amended independent claim 1, a medium-selecting unit selects, in accordance with the medium-selecting instruction, one of a plurality of recording mediums for recording image data which meets the condition selected by the condition-selecting unit, and a storing unit stores information indicative of a relationship between the condition selected by the condition-selecting unit and the recording medium selected by the medium-selecting unit. Still further, as recited in amended independent claim 1, a recording control unit records the image data meeting the condition selected by the condition-selecting unit in one of the plurality of recording mediums, based on the information stored in the storing unit. That is, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, the medium-selecting unit selects one of a plurality of recording mediums for recording image data which meets the selected condition, the storing unit stores information indicative of a relationship

between the selected condition and the selected recording medium, and the recording control unit records the image data meeting the selected condition in one of the plurality of recording mediums, based on the information stored in the storing unit.

Similarly, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 14, an image recording apparatus is provided which comprises a first recording medium which stores image data, an input unit which inputs a condition-selecting instruction and a medium-selecting instruction from a user, and a condition-selecting unit which selects one of a plurality of conditions in accordance with the condition-selection instruction. In addition, as recited in amended independent claim 14, a medium-selecting unit selects, in accordance with the medium-selecting instruction, one of a plurality of second recording mediums for recording image data which is stored in the first recording medium and which meets the condition selected by the condition-selecting unit, and a storing unit stores information indicative of a relationship between the one condition selected by the condition-selecting unit and the second recording medium selected by the medium-selecting unit. Still further, as recited in amended independent claim 14, a recording control unit records the image data which is stored in the first recording medium and which meets the condition selected by the condition-selecting unit in one of the second recording mediums,

based on the information stored in the storing unit. That is, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 14, the medium-selecting unit selects one of a plurality of second recording mediums for recording image data (stored in a first recording medium) which meets the selected condition, the storing unit stores information indicative of a relationship between the selected condition and the selected second recording medium, and the recording control unit records the image data which is stored in the first recording medium and which meets the selected condition in one of the second recording mediums, based on the information stored in the storing unit.

Independent claims 26 and 27, moreover, recite computer programs corresponding to amended independent claims 1 and 14, and independent claims 28 and 29 recite methods corresponding to amended independent claims 1 and 14, respectively.

With the structure of the claimed present invention as shown, for example, in Figs. 2A, 2B and 2C of the present application, a setting memory area 131 includes storing areas 132, 134 and 136 which store the plurality of conditions (photographing modes, subjects, photographing conditions), and storing areas 133, 135 which store information of the plurality of recording mediums corresponding to the plurality of conditions. The condition-selecting unit selects one of the conditions and the medium-selecting unit selects one of the

recording mediums. As a result, it is possible to set the relationships between the plurality of conditions and the plurality of recording mediums, and to arbitrarily change the relationships.

In contrast, Kubo et al merely discloses a camera having an operation mode setting switch 43 for setting one of three recording modes (see column 5, lines 33-40), and a recording medium specifying switch 45 for setting image data to be recorded onto one of: a user's own memory card 21, the user's own memory card and a memory card of another camera, and a recording medium of an external apparatus (see column 10, lines 1-7).

In the camera of Kubo et al, however, the operation mode setting switch 43 and the medium specifying switch 45 are completely independent of each other, and it is respectfully submitted that Kubo et al does not disclose, teach or suggest storing information indicative of a relationship between a selected (photographing) condition and a selected recording medium, and that Kubo et al does not disclose, teach or suggest recording image data meeting the selected condition in one of a plurality of recording mediums based on the stored information, as according to the claimed present invention.

Kubo et al does disclose at columns 9 and 10 that a photographing condition relating to the photographing mode and the recording medium may be set, but this merely refers to a

number of images to be taken in a continuous-exposure mode, for example, or the number of images to be stored on a selected recording medium.

It is respectfully submitted that Kubo et al simply does not disclose, teach or suggest storing information indicative of a relationship between a selected (photographing) condition and a selected recording medium, and recording image data meeting the selected condition in one of a plurality of recording mediums based on the stored information, as according to the claimed present invention

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 1 and 14, amended claims 5, 8-13, 15 and 19-25 respectively depending therefrom, and amended independent claims 26-29 corresponding thereto, clearly patentably distinguishes over Kubo et al, taken singly or in combination with any of the other prior art references of record, under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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